

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 21, 2012
AMENDED IN SENATE JANUARY 19, 2012
AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 22, 2011
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 27, 2011
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 610

Introduced by Assembly Member Solorio
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Blumenfield, Gatto, Jeffries, and
Williams)

February 16, 2011

An act to add and repeal Section ~~5156.5~~ *5156.1* of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 610, as amended, Solorio. Vehicles: specialized license plates: Veterinary Medical Board: ~~pilot program.~~ *Board.*

(1) Under existing law, the Department of Motor Vehicles issues environmental and other specialized license plates. The issuance of some of those license plates is subject to additional fees. Existing law prohibits the department from establishing a specialized license plate program for a state agency until the department has received not less than 7,500 applications for the plates *within 12 months after the date of the department's approval of the agency's initial application to sponsor a specialized license plate program.*

~~This bill would authorize the Veterinary Medical Board to sponsor a specialized license plate pilot program if certain conditions are met. The bill would only require that an initial 3,500 paid applications be collected and held by the board and that a sufficient amount of additional funds be received from donations to cover the department's startup costs for the manufacture of the specialized license plate. To maintain the program, the bill would require that an additional 4,000 license plates be sold within a year after initial production of those specialized license plates. The bill would require the board to actively request and receive donations from public and private entities that would be deposited into the Specialized License Plate Fund and, upon determination by the department that there are sufficient funds for the program, moneys would be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the department for the necessary administrative costs of establishing the specialized license plate program and, as to any remaining moneys, for allocation to the board for programs that support spay and neutering programs.~~

~~The bill would require the department to provide to the board an itemized report of its actual costs to initiate the specialized plate program.~~

This bill would authorize the Veterinary Medical Board to contact the department by June 30, 2012, and indicate its intent to undertake collection of additional applications and fees or deposits for an additional period of 12 months in order to obtain the minimum 7,500 applications for a special license plate the board is seeking to sponsor pursuant to existing law. The bill would make this provision inoperative on July 1, 2013, and would repeal this provision on January 1, 2014.

(2) This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 5156.1 is added to the Vehicle Code, to
2 read:
3 5156.1. (a) Notwithstanding paragraph (2) of subdivision (b)
4 of Section 5156, the Veterinary Medical Board may by June 30,
5 2012, contact the department and indicate its intent to undertake
6 collection of additional applications and fees or deposits for an

1 additional period not to exceed 12 months in order to obtain the
2 minimum 7,500 applications for a license plate it is sponsoring.
3 If the board elects to exercise the option under this subdivision, it
4 shall contact each applicant who has submitted an application
5 with the appropriate fees or deposits to determine if the applicant
6 wishes a refund of fees or deposits or requests the continuance of
7 the holding of the application and fees or deposits until that time
8 that the board has received 7,500 applications. The board shall
9 refund the fees or deposits to an applicant so requesting. The board
10 shall not collect and hold applications for a period exceeding 36
11 months following the date of approval of the board's initial
12 application to sponsor a specialized license plate program.

13 (b) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2013, and,
14 as of January 1, 2014, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,
15 that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2014, deletes or
16 extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.

17 ~~SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the~~
18 ~~following:~~

19 ~~Based on statistics from the State Department of Public Health~~
20 ~~for 2010, 467,096 dogs and 400,433 cats entered shelters in the~~
21 ~~state. Of the number of dogs entering shelters, 19 percent were~~
22 ~~reclaimed by owners, 32 percent were adopted, and 38 percent~~
23 ~~were euthanized. Of the number of cats entering shelters, only 2~~
24 ~~percent were reclaimed by owners and only 20 percent were~~
25 ~~adopted, and 69 percent were euthanized. The data is incomplete~~
26 ~~because it does not include two nonreporting counties and some~~
27 ~~counties only partially reported, and the statistics do not include~~
28 ~~private shelters. Thus, in 2010, more than 867,529 dogs and cats~~
29 ~~entered shelters and more than one-half were euthanized.~~

30 ~~SEC. 2. Section 5156.5 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:~~

31 ~~5156.5. (a) (1) The Veterinary Medical Board may apply to~~
32 ~~the department to sponsor a specialized license plate program, and~~
33 ~~the department shall issue specialized license plates for that~~
34 ~~program, if the board complies with all of the requirements of this~~
35 ~~section. The specialized license plate shall be of a size, color, and~~
36 ~~configuration that meets the design criteria as set forth in Section~~
37 ~~5155.~~

38 ~~(2) The department shall not issue specialized license plates to~~
39 ~~the board for a vehicle that is exempt from the payment of~~
40 ~~registration fees pursuant to Section 9101 or 9103.~~

~~(b) The board may sponsor a specialized license plate program and the department may establish the program in the absence of 7,500 paid applications, as would be required under subdivision (a) of Section 5156 or Section 5157, if all of the following conditions are met:~~

~~(1) The department shall establish a specialized license plate program for the board when the department has received not less than 3,500 paid applications for the board's specialized license plates and a sufficient amount of additional funds from donations to cover the department's startup costs for the manufacture of the specialized license plate. The board shall collect and hold applications for the license plates. Once the board has received at least 3,500 paid applications, it shall submit the applications, along with the necessary fees, to the department.~~

~~(2) No later than June 30, 2012, the minimum criteria of 3,500 plates and sufficient funds for the program startup costs shall be achieved. At that time, the board shall submit the applications along with the necessary fees to the department and the department shall undertake production of the specialized license plate. Once the license plate has been produced, is available to the public for purchase, and its availability is published on the department's Web site, the board shall have one year from that date to augment the initial 3,500 license plates with an additional 4,000 license plates to meet the minimum criteria for maintaining a new specialized license plate pilot program of 7,500 license plates sold.~~

~~(3) If the pilot program fails to achieve the 7,500 license plate minimum criteria of license plates sold within the 12-month period following the date of availability of the first produced license plate, the department shall notify the board of that fact and shall inform the board that the department will no longer issue or replace those specialized license plates.~~

~~(4) The board actively requests and receives donations for the specialized license plate program, which may consist of donations from public and private entities for deposit into the Specialized License Plate Fund. Earnings generated from donations shall be retained for the specialized license plate program authorized by this section.~~

~~(5) Upon determination by the department that there are sufficient funds for the program, moneys shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the department for the~~

1 ~~necessary administrative costs of establishing the specialized~~
2 ~~license plate program.~~

3 ~~(e) (1) If the number of outstanding and valid specialized license~~
4 ~~plates in the second year of the pilot program, including new~~
5 ~~applications, are not more than 7,500, the department shall notify~~
6 ~~the board of that fact and shall inform the board that the department~~
7 ~~will no longer issue or replace those specialized license plates.~~

8 ~~(2) Those particular specialized license plates that were issued~~
9 ~~prior to the discontinuation provided by paragraph (1) may continue~~
10 ~~to be used and attached to the vehicle for which they were issued~~
11 ~~and may be renewed, retained, or transferred pursuant to this code.~~

12 ~~(d) In addition to the regular fees for an original registration or~~
13 ~~renewal of registration, the following additional fees shall be paid~~
14 ~~for the issuance, renewal, or transfer of the specialized license~~
15 ~~plates:~~

16 ~~(1) Fifty dollars (\$50) for the original issuance of the plates.~~

17 ~~(2) Forty dollars (\$40) for a renewal of registration with the~~
18 ~~plates.~~

19 ~~(3) Fifteen dollars (\$15) for transfer of the plates to another~~
20 ~~vehicle.~~

21 ~~(4) Thirty-five dollars (\$35) for each substitute replacement~~
22 ~~plate.~~

23 ~~(e) After deducting its administrative costs under this section,~~
24 ~~which moneys shall be available for expenditure by the department,~~
25 ~~upon appropriation by the Legislature, the department shall deposit~~
26 ~~the additional revenue derived from the issuance, renewal, transfer,~~
27 ~~and substitution of the specialized license plates in the Specialized~~
28 ~~License Plate Fund. Upon appropriation by the Legislature, the~~
29 ~~moneys in that fund shall be allocated to the board and, except as~~
30 ~~authorized under Section 5159, the board shall expend all funds~~
31 ~~received under this section exclusively for projects and programs~~
32 ~~that support spaying and neutering programs.~~

33 ~~(f) The department shall provide to the board an itemized report~~
34 ~~of its actual costs to initiate the specialized license plate program~~
35 ~~authorized under this section.~~

36 ~~SEC. 3.~~

37 *SEC. 2.* This act is an urgency statute necessary for the
38 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within
39 the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into
40 immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

1 In order to ensure that the pilot program for a specialized license
2 plate becomes operative as soon as possible to allow the Veterinary
3 Medical Board to support the critically important efforts of city
4 and county animal shelters to address serious animal care and
5 control problems facing the state, it is necessary that this act go
6 into effect immediately.

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